

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of June 19-June 23, 2006**

1. Visit by Central American Mayors: The City of Takoma Park hosted ten mayors from Nicaragua and Honduras on Thursday as part of a two-week training program they were attending in the DC area. Hosted by Georgetown University and the U.S. State Department, the program trains mayors in leadership and governing skills. The day in Takoma Park was their only visit to a small jurisdiction. The focus of the Takoma Park visit was on incorporating citizen participation in governing. Presentations were made by a number of staff members, the group had a tour of the Community Center and of the town, and the day ended with an informal discussion with Mayor Kathy Porter. The group was delighted with the visit, with one mayor commenting, "Mi corazon esta en Takoma Park!" ("My heart is in Takoma Park!") Thanks to all the staff who contributed to the day-long program. Now staff is interested in a study trip to each of the ten municipalities to learn from them! (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6): Spruce Avenue (Ward 1) and Glenside Court (Ward 6) were resurfaced this week. (*Public Works*)

3. Awards in the City:

- City TV staff are thrilled to announce that they have received notification of two awards in the 2006 Hometown Video Festival. The first award is Overall Excellence: Government Access (budget under \$200,000). This award recognizes City TV for overall programming and operational efforts in 2005. Contest entry included example of Council meetings, public hearings, Snapshots and highlights from many of the annual festivals we cover.

- The other award (as announced in S&I two weeks ago) is in the category of Government Profile, and is for a Snapshots Community Policing Segment called "Going to the Dogs". TPPD's canine teams with handlers, Cpl. Keith Largent and Cpl. Doug Malarkey, were featured along with city businessman John Urciola explaining how canine is used and its value in public safety. This segment is co-produced by our outside producer Paula Rehr and Police Department Public Affairs Specialist Carol Bannerman. The awards ceremony is in July in Boston during the annual conference of the Alliance for Community Media.

- We also just found out we will be receiving an Honorable Mention at the NATOA Government Programming Awards which will be held in August. (*City TV*)

4. Events Coverage: City TV staff covered several events this week, including the June 20 visit of the Central American Mayors, which will be featured in a future Snapshots. Also City TV cablecast the Candidates Forum sponsored by the Takoma Voice on Thursday, June 22 featuring Montgomery County Council District 5 candidates. This program is available on the City website as an archive. (*City TV*)

5. Community Organizer (Ward 6): A new community organizer for the Montgomery section of the MD International Corridor CSAFE began work this week. Gretchen Hilburger, previously with marketing for the 4h Council, has been an active volunteer with the Hispanic community. (*Police*)

6. Officers in Meetings (Wards 2 & 5): D/Sgt. Poole attended a multijurisdiction meeting regarding crime at the University of Maryland. D/Cpl John attended the multijurisdictional meeting regarding robberies at the U.S. Attorneys in DC. Chief Coursey, Sgt. Gilbert of the COP Team and Det. Conrad will attend a residents meeting at 701 Ethan Allen on Saturday to discuss crime and safety issues. (Ward2). Sgt. Gilbert will be attending a similar meeting Friday evening with residents in the Sligo Creek area (Ward 5) . *(Police)*

7. Burglaries (Ward 6): Investigators noted a possible crime trend emerging with two nighttime commercial burglaries occurring one night in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue. *(Police)*

8. Police Academy Event: Chief Coursey, along with recruiting team members A/Lt. Collington and Ofc. Gaskin, attended an open house at the Prince George's County Municipal Police Academy. Several members of the current class are attending the academy without affiliation to any agency. *(Police)*

9. Traffic Enforcement (All Wards): Almost 100 traffic stops were made this week, with citations written in about 75 percent. Enforcement occurred throughout the City with about one-third of the stops taking place on New Hampshire Avenue and University Blvd. *(Police)*

10. Parking Permits: Permits in residential parking permit zones expire next week; residents should check their vehicles' expiration dates and renew in person next week. Area B permits will be offered beginning Monday; nine permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. *(Police)*

11. The Grand Opening: The Recreation Department hosted two days of grand opening celebrations last week for Phase II of the Community Center. Hundreds of kids showed up to try out the new space, see some program demonstrations, participate in activities and receive giveaways. Kids ages 7-19 can join the game room and those ages 13-19 can become members of the teen lounge. Game room is \$5/year and the Teen membership is \$10/year for both rooms. Forms can be picked up at the community center. *(Recreation)*

12. Summer Camp: Summer Camps begin on Monday, June 26, 2006. The Creative Adventure and Extreme Horizons camps will be held at the new community center, 7500 Maple Ave. The gym will be used at the Piney Branch Elementary school for Before Care (7-9 a.m.), After Care (4-6 p.m.) and for indoor activities during the day. Otherwise, most activities will be held in the new art room, Azalea Room, classrooms, Dance Studio and Game Room. Spaces are still available in both camps. See our website for more information: www.tprecreation.org. *(Recreation)*

13. Bike Rack Installation (City Wide): 22 bike racks have been installed throughout the City with more to come as part of the Safe Roadways Committee recommended projects for this year. The bike racks are U racks that each hold two bikes. 19 more bike racks are scheduled to be installed next week. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. New Bus Shelter (Ward 1): Through the sustained efforts of the Main Street Takoma Design Committee, Ride-On has replaced the bus shelter at Victory Tower with

a cleaner, newer one. This is one of the few remaining County maintained shelters with no advertising. (*Housing and Community Development*)"